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unequal values, assorted in such a way as to indicate information that comes from reading rather than knowledge that comes from investigation; and for its evidence of a very limited acquaintance with the modern literature, including as it does some of the best literature, dealing with the subjects presented. The desire to interpret science to the reading public is a worthy motive, and it ought to appeal more strongly to men of science than it does; but the interpretation must represent current science, or it will deceive rather than inform.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

Das Pflanzenreich.⁴—Part 38 of this work consists of a monographic treatment of the Cyperaceae-Caricoideae by the distinguished caricologist Professor GEORG KÜKENTHAL. The author follows the usual sequence of this excellent series of monographs in the general consideration of the group. Four genera are included, namely, *Schoenoxiphium* (6 species), *Cobresia* (29 species), *Uncinia* (24 species), and *Carex* (793 species). The total number of species representing the four genera, as here treated, includes only about a dozen which are characterized as new, and of the new species not one is recorded from America. Several new American varieties, however, are described. The nomenclatorial changes are relatively few. The chief interest of the publication centers on the genus *Carex*, which is divided into four subgenera and fourteen sections; the divisions are based primarily on the characters of the inflorescence. The keys preceding the species of each section are concise and well contrasted, the descriptions are carefully drawn, the literature and exsiccatae are freely cited, and the illustrations are numerous and well selected. On the whole the present monograph should materially aid toward a better understanding of this difficult but interesting genus.

Part 39 contains an elaboration of the Phytolaccaceae by DR. HANS WALTER. The author recognizes for this family 24 genera and 114 species, of which 32 are new to science. In addition to the general index there is a list of the collectors mentioned and numbers cited in the body of the work, which facilitates greatly the organizing of herbarium material in accordance with the text.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Chronology of the flora of Italy.⁵—The present volume is an analysis of the flora of Italy with particular reference to its historical development. The main body of the work is essentially a catalogue of the species, including those indigenous, introduced, and naturalized, also those in cultivation. The sequence of the genera is in accordance with ENGLER and PRANTL'S *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*. About 4100 species, many varieties, and hybrids are listed, and under the species reference

⁴ ENGLER, A., *Das Pflanzenreich*. Heft 38 (IV. 20). Cyperaceae-Caricoideae von GEORG KÜKENTHAL, pp. 824. figs. 128 (981). M 41.20. Heft 39 (IV. 83). Phytolaccaceae von HANS WALTER, pp. 154. figs. 42 (286). M 7.80. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1909.

⁵ SACCARDO, P. A., *Chronologia della flora Italiana*. Royal 8vo. pp. xxxvii + 390. Padova: Tipografia del Seminario. 1909. L.15 (\$2.90).

is made to the first record of the plant in Italian literature, as well as subsequent mention by later writers. This volume is the result of much painstaking labor, and it presents a mass of historical information in epitomized form. An excellent bibliographical catalogue adds materially to the value of the publication as a work of reference.—J. M. GREENMAN.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Current taxonomic literature.—H. DE BOISSIEU (Bull. Soc. Bot. Fr. IV. 9:348–355. 1909) describes several new species and varieties of Umbelliferae from China, and proposes a new genus (*Chaerophyllopsis*) of this family, which is referred to the tribe Ammineae.—J. D. HOOKER (Kew Bull. 1909: 281–289) in a “Review of the known Philippine Islands species of *Impatiens*” recognizes 25 species and precedes their enumeration by a determinative key.—C. H. WRIGHT (*ibid.* 308) has published a new genus (*Neodregea*) of the Liliaceae from South Africa.—F. J. SEAVER (Mycologia 1:177–207. pl. 13. 1909) under the title “The Hypocreales of North America II” gives a systematic treatment of the tribe Creonectriaceae, recognizing 11 genera to which are definitely referred 38 species; 11 additional species are mentioned as of doubtful generic affinity. Five of the genera (*Sphaerodermatella*, *Creonectria*, *Macbridella*, *Scoleconectria*, and *Thyronectroidea*) are new, and of the 38 species 29 form new combinations.—F. D. KERN (*ibid.* 208–210) records a new species of Gymnosporangium from Colorado.—F. D. HEALD (*ibid.* 215–217. pl. 14) describes and illustrates a new species of *Discosia* parasitic on pine seedlings at Halsey, Nebraska.—F. OSTERMEYER (Ann. K. K. Naturhist. Hofmus. 22:128–142. 1907–1908) publishes a list of about 300 plants collected in Brazil in 1860 by Dr. THEO. PECKHOLT; the list contains, among other novelties, a new species of *Cryptocarya*.—F. KRÄNZLIN (*ibid.* 1911–1906. pls. 3, 4) under the title “Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Gattung *Calceolaria*” has published new species of this genus from Central and South America.—A. BRAND (Philip. Jour. Sci. 4:107–110. 1909) has described 5 new species of *Symplocos* from the Philippine Islands.—E. B. COPELAND (*ibid.* 111–115) in continuation of his studies on Philippine ferns records 7 new species and proposes one new genus (*Currania*).—E. D. MERRILL (*ibid.* 117–128) presents a “Revision of the Philippine Connaraceae,” recognizing 5 genera and 17 species of which 8 are described as new; the same author (*ibid.* 129–153) under the title “A revision of Philippine Loranthaceae” recognizes 6 genera and 53 species of which 19 are new; one new genus (*Cleistoloranthus*) is proposed.—H. N. RIDLEY (*ibid.* 155–199) gives a synopsis of the Scitamineae of the Philippine Islands. The group includes four families, as follows: Zingiberaceae with 15 genera and 61 species, Marantaceae with 4 genera and 7 species, Cannaceae with 1 genus and 2 species, and Musaceae with 1 genus represented by 1 endemic and 4 cultivated species. Several species are here described for the first time.—A. DECANDOLLE (Leafl. Phil. Bot. 2:633–638. 1909) gives a “Revision of the Philippine species of *Elaeocarpus*,” in which 16 species are recognized, 3 being new.—A. ENGLER (Bot. Jahrb. 43:303–381. 1909), in cooperation with several botanists, under the title